

DeSoto City Lights

A Publication of the City of DeSoto Community Relations Department

DeSoto Library Director, Kerry McGeath receives Standing TALL Award



DeSoto's Managing Director of Library Services, Kerry McGeath, was recently recognized by the Texas Library Association with their Standing TALL Award For Outstanding Leadership in Texas Libraries. This award is presented to a Texas librarian and recognizes outstanding leadership demonstrated by a librarian who is an active or retired member of the Texas Library Association.

Kerry was nominated for the award by Cynthia Pfledderer, the City Librarian in Southlake. Here is an excerpt from her award nomination:

"I am writing this nomination for Kerry McGeath," said Ms. Pfledderer. "I worked with him for several years while he managed the Southlake Library. He has since moved on to another position as Director of the DeSoto Public Library. He was recognized in 2009 as Texas Library Association (TLA) Librarian of the Year for his work in turning around the Southlake Public Library, and he is now using the same methods and is seeing a turnaround at the DeSoto Public Library."

Nominees for the award are evaluated on the basis of their demonstrated leadership abilities in three areas: the workplace, professional organizations, and the community at-large. Nominations also include: letters of recommendation from colleagues and employers, as well as supporting data such as examples of work, news articles, and publicity for exemplary programs which would establish the merits of the candidate.

Here are some excerpts from the letters of support submitted for Kerry McGeath:

"Kerry has developed an approach to managing a public library that is focused on keeping costs low, a productive staff, having an effective mix of materials, utilizing volunteers effectively, and engaging with the community – basically a cost effective operation that is well used."

"He is now teaching an online graduate level class on Library Management at Texas Women's University, and has made numerous presentations around the state on a variety of topics including how to utilize retail concepts in libraries, providing first class customer service, and most recently on Texas library standards. He has been very engaged in any community he has worked and builds a case through extensive engagement in the community. I believe Kerry is a wonderful example of the work ethic and courage of a leader in our profession."

"He brings the unique experience of coming to the library from a retail perspective. He is able to view and promote library services to the community in a way they are used to and that they understand in everyday business. The focus, determination and positive attitude he exhibits in the leadership role is inspiring to all library directors." – Jo Giudice, Director of the Dallas Public Library

"Kerry excels in the area of workplace leadership. He creates inter-organizational partnerships, focuses on over-the-top customer service within Library walls, and seeks innovative programs outside the Library in order to "take the Library to the people." – Lora Stallings, Assistant City Manager, City of DeSoto



City Calendar

June

1 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6 pm
1 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
1 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
2 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
4 Council Work Session on CIP City Hall 6p
4 Historical Foundation Mtg. 6 pm
4 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
4 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
6 Creekfest - Outdoor Amphitheater 5pm
9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
10 Kick-off Library Summer Reading Club
11 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. 6pm
16 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
22 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - City Hall - 7pm

July

2 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
2 Friends of the Library Mtg. - 6 pm
2 KDB Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
3 City offices closed July 4th Holiday
4 Fireworks - Meadow Creek Park 6pm
6 Arts Commission Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6pm
6 Poetry In Progress - Civic Ctr. - 7 pm
6 Park Board Mtg. - Civic Ctr. - 6:30 pm
7 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
9 Veterans Affairs Mtg. Civic Ctr. - 6pm
10 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
14 Planning & Zoning Mtg.- City Hall - 7 pm
17 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
21 City Council Mtg. - City Hall - 7 pm
23 Mayor's Quarterly Mtg. City Hall 6:30 p
24 Council Budget Workshop City Hall 6pm
24 Outdoor Movie-Amphitheater 8:30 pm
27 DEDC Board Mtg. - City Hall - 9 am
28 Planning & Zoning Mtg. City Hall 7 pm
30 City Council Budget Mtg. City Hall 6 pm
31 City Council Budget Review 8 am - 6 pm

BEE BRANCH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

The final phase of the reconstruction of Bee Branch Bridge, located on Pleasant Run Road just west of Cockrell Hill Road, is underway. The existing bridge will be replaced with a four lane, divided concrete bridge. The new bridge will be elevated approximately eight feet higher than the existing bridge in order to eliminate the "ski slope" effect of the hill located immediately east of the bridge. The City is also widening Pleasant Run Road between the bridge and Cockrell Hill Road to a four lane, divided concrete road. Construction is expected to last approximately twelve months.

DeSoto Fire Rescue Presents Life Saving Awards

At a recent City Council meeting, three incidences involving life saving by DeSoto Fire Rescue personnel were recognized. Captain Bryan Southard presented the awards saying that on average every three days in DeSoto, EMS personnel perform CPR on unconscious patients and are able to get a heart rate back in 40% of the cases, 12% of patients recover and leave the hospital.



Pictured here from left are Chief Jerry Duffield, FF Gary Blaser, FF Jared McClung, FF Michael Homer, Cap. Darryl Smith, Eng. Kevin Byrum and Mayor Sherman. They responded to an unconscious person found without a pulse. After administering CPR, a pulse was quickly regained. The crew reported to the

hospital that the patient would need to be paced allowing them to have their pacing machine ready upon arrival. After a four day stay in the hospital, the patient was discharged with no deficits.

The second group recognized are pictured here at the right and include from left, Chief Jerry Duffield, FF Gary Blaser, FF Adam Hubbard, Cap. Darryl Smith, Eng. Kevin Byrum, FF Alan Harris and Mayor Sherman. This team responded to a call from a person suffering an allergic reaction. The patient had mistakenly ingested fish and went into anaphylactic shock within a few minutes of medics arriving on the scene. CPR was initiated by this crew and the patient was quickly transported to the hospital. A pulse was regained in route. After a seven day stay at the hospital, this patient was discharged home without any restrictions or deficits.



The final group recognized and picture on the right include from left, Chief Jerry Duffield, FF Daniel Kennedy, FF Gary Blaser, FF Tye Baudin, Cap. Brent Shull, the revived patient Wendell Williams and Mayor Sherman. This crew responded to a call for an unconscious person and found the patient lying in the street with a bystander performing CPR. The patient was found to be in a shockable rhythm. Medics resumed CPR after shocking him and placed a breathing tube to help him breath. A pulse was regained. Compressions were stopped, the patient was ventilated and the pulse maintained in route to the hospital. After seven days, the patient was released from the hospital with no deficits. As FF Daniel Kennedy was working on the patient, he realized that the face was familiar and belonged to his high school classmate, Wendell Williams. To show his gratitude to Kennedy and the crew, Williams appeared at the City Council meeting to present their lifesaving award.



Captain Southard closed the presentation by saying, "I hope no one here gets sick, but if you do, DeSoto is the place to be because we have a great group of first responders here."

Did You Know...

That all DeSoto intrusion alarm users (businesses and residences) are required to have an alarm permit number issued by the City?

City of DeSoto Ordinance Number 2013-15 requires all businesses and residences equipped with an intrusion detection system to have a permit which is available for purchase from the Utility Billing window in DeSoto City Hall. Failure to obtain a permit can result in a fine of up to \$500 plus court costs.

Effective June 1, 2015, the annual cost for a business alarm permit will be \$65 and \$35 for a residential permit. All permits must be renewed annually on the anniversary date of the issuance of the permit. Late fees are assessed to all alarm users whose permit renewal is not paid prior to the expiration date on the invoice. Senior alarm users aged 65 and over, are exempt from paying the permit fee but must obtain a permit number. Seniors must provide a copy of their driver's license to the City's Alarm Permit Administrator to verify their age.

False alarms are costly and dangerous because they divert police officers from proactive crime prevention efforts. They also delay response to true emergencies. This permit allows the alarm user three false alarms without penalty in a 12 month period and is required whether or not your system is monitored. Additional false

alarms will be assessed escalating fines/fees starting at \$50 up to \$100 for each false alarm. Operating an alarm system without a permit will subject the operator/owner to a citation for each occurrence.

Beginning June 1, 2015 Ordinance Number 2013-15 requires alarm system companies operating in the City of DeSoto to register with the Alarm Permit Administrator prior to conducting business in the City, and annually thereafter on or before October 1st of each year. Alarm system companies must also notify the City's Alarm Permit Administrator in writing within 48 hours of installation, activation or termination of an alarm system within the City. The Alarm Permit Administrator can be reached via email at alarmpermits@desototexas.gov or by calling 972.230.9628. Alarm systems companies not complying with the amended City ordinance may be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 per violation.

The City's amended Alarm Permits Ordinance 2015-13 is available for review on the City website at www.desototexas.gov, by requesting a copy from the Alarm Permit Administrator at alarmpermits@desototexas.gov, or by calling 972.230.9628. All alarm users and alarm system companies will be required to comply with the amended ordinance beginning June 1, 2015.



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada recently announced that the City of DeSoto has received the GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its FY2015 Budget. The award reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principals of governmental budgeting. In order to receive this award, the City had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as: a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device.



"What are your top three reasons for living in DeSoto?"
Talk to us at desototexas.gov/engagedesoto.
We're listening.

Notice of Town Hall Meeting & Citizen Commentary Period

The City of DeSoto participates in the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Block Grant Program and is required to prepare and submit a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan for HUD approval in order to receive this grant funding. The City encourages citizen input regarding use of CDBG funds through a Town Hall Meeting and a 30-day citizen commentary period.

Town Hall Meeting: Saturday, May 30, 2015, at 5:00 p.m., City Council Chambers, Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall), 211 East Pleasant Run Road, DeSoto, Texas – intended to invite public comment regarding the housing and community development needs, as well as fair housing opportunities in DeSoto; citizen comments will assist in the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan.

30-Day Citizen Commentary Period: copies of the draft Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan, and Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice are available online at www.desototexas.gov; paper copies are available in the atrium of the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall) and in the DeSoto Public Library, located at 211 East Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto; citizens are encouraged to review these documents and offer comments from June 1 through June 30, 2015; comments may be submitted on paper or by emailing lstallings@desototexas.gov

Public Hearing: during City Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m.; after the public hearing, the City Council will consider approval of HUD grant-related documents; the City Council Meeting will take place in the Council Chambers, in the Jim Baugh Government Center (DeSoto City Hall), located at 211 East Pleasant Run Road in DeSoto, Texas.

N.I.A. Kids Summer Theater Camps 2015



TWO CAMPS & TWO SESSIONS

REGISTER NOW + SPACE IS LIMITED

ages 8-12
YOUTH THEATER CAMP
at N.I.A. Kids Center
SESSION 1
June 8-July 2, 2015
SESSION 2
July 6-July 31, 2015
M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Registration
NOW OPEN!

ages 13-18
TEEN THEATER CAMP
at DeSoto Corner Theater
SESSION 1
June 8-July 2, 2015
SESSION 2
July 6-July 31, 2015
M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Payment installments are available now through the first day of each session



For more information call **972-228-8381**
or visit **www.niakids.org**

@niakids f N.I.A. Kids Center for the Performing Arts

N.I.A. Kids Center for the Performing Arts 901 N. Polk, Ste. 380, DeSoto, TX 75115

DESOTO PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK BUDDIES



ATTENTION PARENTS:

The DeSoto Library will launch its
"Summer Book Buddies Program"

June 23, 2015 - July 28, 2015

This is an all-volunteer program where teen volunteers from the community will read with a buddy (child) for 45 minutes and do enrichment activities for the last 15 minutes.

This program is open to children ages 4-11.

Buddies will meet every Tuesday morning from 10:15am-11:15am.

Call 972.230.9661 to register your child from May 11 - June 23.

Space is limited and on a first come first served basis. Please don't delay to sign-up your child now.

NOTE: Parents must stay in the library during the program. Drop-off is not allowed.

Creekfest

Saturday, June 6th | 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Town Center Amphitheater
211 E Pleasant Run Rd.
DeSoto, Texas 75115

This free festival includes food, vendor booths, children's activities and great entertainment. You'll want to bring your lawn chair and get a good spot to enjoy the free entertainment.



Top Band

Top is an absolutely sensational Dallas based entertainment group comprised of the finest musicians in the industry today. Playing Smooth Jazz, Motown, Disco and Classic Jammin' Oldies, all the way to today's Dance Music Hits.



Black & Blue Band

The Black & Blue sound could be best described as an amalgamation of rock, electro-funk and soul, straddling the line between classic and 21st century sonic idioms, with one foot firmly planted in the blues.

Fourth of July

Saturday, July 4th | 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Meadowcreek Park
1400 Uhl Rd.
DeSoto, Texas 75115

This traditional patriotic salute is free and open to the entire community. Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and enjoy an evening of live entertainment and a fireworks show.



Con Funk Shun

Con Funk Shun is a star-quality attraction delivering a superb, high-energy show with electrifying choreography, glistening six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the heroes of Funk with romantic ballads and dance-party hits galore.



Ivory JeaN Band

Ivory JeaN spins across all genres of music and encompasses an eclectic musical style that offers something for everyone. Offering tunes from the musical genres of soul, jazz, funk, pop, and R&B, Ivory JeaN can rock any crowd.



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

DESOTO TOWN CENTER / 211 EAST PLEASANT RUN ROAD
DESOTO, TX 75115 / Ph: 972.230.9650 / Fax: 972.230.5796

desototexas.gov/parks

facebook.com/desotorec